United Nations E/2015/NGO/58

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016
English
Original: French

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by RESO-Femmes, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08749 (E) 030616

Please recycle

Statement

RESO-Femmes specializes in the social and political empowerment of leaders. It contributes to the advancement of female leaders from the South and to reflection on the reforms awaited from the United Nations system. Through its actions and its capacity for reflection on political events and social crises, it assures the long-term future of its programmes and contributes significantly to the building of more peaceful societies and the development of policies that promote women's participation. To that end, it creates innovative programmes and projects designed to give coherence and impetus to grass-roots organizations, promoting their autonomy and their regional and national reach.

At the same time, the organization is working on a research programme to survey the Sustainable Development Goals and provide tools for implementing them worldwide. Working at various levels, it specializes in political training for leaders, but its aim of leaving no member behind is achieved primarily through its work with multigenerational groups and the principle of "train the trainers" (as exemplified by two complementary programmes: "Gender, empowerment and parity" in Mali, and "Water, sanitation and food" in Burkina Faso).

The anthropological method demonstrates that it is possible to manage all the development goals in an inclusive, cross-cutting manner that ensures sustainability. This yields compelling results and effective development, particularly in the training of political leaders who step easily into their roles and who, in turn, train socioeconomic beneficiaries who have been made aware of environmental and climate problems. This approach fosters multidimensional, multidisciplinary coherence and collaboration.

The risks are nonetheless constant. These include internal risks, related to population displacement as a result of war, climate change and the fragile state of democracies in many African countries. In the current context, there are also external risks posed by well-funded evangelical foundations, such as those in Burkina Faso, which are apparently seeking to undermine established women's organizations. This is damaging to diversity of affiliation and to our advancement. It is divisive and affects the security of these organizations.

To prevent this and to guarantee the sustainability of these organizations and local and global security, we have the following suggestions for the high-level segment:

- To include in its work tested, proven anthropological approaches as a key prerequisite for achieving the 2030 goals, particularly those that involve actions at various levels and citizen actors capable of assessing sustainability issues and making relevant qualitative recommendations, in spheres where quantitative and statistical approaches have fallen short;
- To promote State-level legislation based on tested models that reflect each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and include relevant recommendations;
- To encourage the development of public and global policies that are linked to actions and proposals originating from regional leaders and to reforms expected by the public, as well as to their chosen development paths and cultural values.

While implementation takes place at the national level, and poverty reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals are the purview of the international level, the role and the security contribution of "facilitators and mediators" in this process, without interference from external ideologies, are central.